

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. **(cancelled)**
2. **(previously presented)** The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:  
said middle component is slideably received by said second base component.
3. **(previously presented)** The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:  
said concave portion has a constant radius.
4. **(withdrawn)** The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:  
said concave portion has a varying radius in at least one direction.
5. **(withdrawn)** The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:  
said concave portion has a varying radius in at least two directions.
- 6, 7. **(cancelled)**
8. **(previously presented)** The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:  
said convex portion extends above a generally flat surface and is surrounded by  
a groove that extends below said generally flat surface.
9. **(previously presented)** The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:  
the middle component has an anterior edge and a posterior edge; and said  
convex portion has a center of radius that is closer to said anterior edge than it is to said  
posterior edge.
10. **(previously presented)** The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:  
the middle component has an anterior edge and a posterior edge, and the middle  
component varies in height along a direction between the anterior edge and the  
posterior edge.

11-16.        **(cancelled)**

17.    **(currently amended)** A prosthetic assembly for use between a pair of adjacent vertebrae, comprising

        a first base component having a first side adapted for engaging the first of the adjacent vertebrae, and an opposing second side comprising a concave portion;

        a second base component having a first side adapted for engaging the second of the adjacent vertebrae, and an opposing second side;

        the first sides of each of the base components comprising a plurality of sharpened teeth and a raised portion with angled sidewalls that taper in the direction towards the base component to cooperate with bone in-growth, as the vertebra-engaging adaptation; and

        a middle component having a first side with a convex portion thereon adapted to engage the concave portion of the first base component, and an opposing second side;

        wherein the second side of the second base component is adapted to removably receive the second side of the middle component.

18.    **(currently amended)** The prosthetic assembly of claim 17, wherein:

        the sharpened teeth are positioned near a periphery of the first side of the base component and the raised portion with angled sidewalls ~~at least one inverted frustocone~~ is positioned in a central area thereof.

19.    **(previously presented)** The prosthetic assembly of claim 18, wherein:

        the raised portion comprises a pair of concentric raised circular portions.